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STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, ANNOUNCING OPENING OF 1950 FUND CAMPAIGN
OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS. MARCH 1, 1950.

Governor J. Strom Thurmond today called the attention of South Carolinians to the official opening of the 1950 Fund Campaign of the American Red Cross, which starts March 1 and continues throughout the month.

"The programs of service rendered by the Red Cross in South Carolina have my wholehearted support," Governor Thurmond said. "The work of this great humanitarian organization in assisting the servicemen and veterans of our State through local Red Cross chapters and through personnel assigned to military installations is well known to South Carolinians."

The Governor pointed out that local chapters in the State aided a monthly average of 1,116 servicemen, 1,130 veterans and 250 civilians in 1949 through Home Service programs. Total financial assistance given through local chapters was approximately \$55,500, and other help was given with personal and family problems, emergency communications, government claims and benefits, emergency furloughs and other welfare problems.

At military installations in the state, an average of almost 20,000 servicemen a month were assisted by the Red Cross, with a total of more than \$55,000 allotted in loans throughout the year. An additional 2,500 men in military hospitals were also helped by the Red Cross.

"The Red Cross programs of service are made possible by the vast army of volunteers who are active leaders in the community," Governor Thurmond added. "During 1949, volunteers in the state gave an overall total of more than 25,000 hours of service, including more than 5,000 hours given by 1,600 volunteers serving military hospitals, and more than 6,000 hours given by almost 1,000 volunteers in veterans hospitals of the State."

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Special Red Cross courses in first aid, water safety, and home nursing have given South Carolina residents a chance to lead safer and healthier lives, he continued. During the past calendar year, almost 1,500 certificates in first aid were issued by the Red Cross in the State; 16,000 certificates in swimming, almost 1,000 in life saving, and 400 in home nursing were also issued.

"Members of the Junior Red Cross in South Carolina are learning better citizenship in the community and in the world," the Governor continued. "Last year there were more than 200,000 grade and high school children of the State enrolled in JRC service. A significant program conducted by these members is packing and sending gift boxes to the children of other countries, a real and personal way for our children to learn about the world today. We are proud that almost 5,000 of these gift boxes were sent by the children of our State to children overseas."

Another Red Cross program which is ever increasing in importance to the health and well being of the State is the National Blood Program, he said. Six chapters in the northern part of the State are participating in this program through the Charlotte regional blood center, while another seven chapters in the coastal region are included in the Savannah program.

"We were very fortunate in the State last year in not having any major disasters," Governor Thurmond said, "but through the Red Cross preparedness plans, local communities are always ready to meet emergency situations when and if they do occur. We did have families in the state who suffered personal or property damage, in a fire at Orangeburg last May and in a false flood which struck Greenville in October. The Red Cross assisted 101 of these families during the emergency by supplying needed shelter, food, clothing, medical aid, and later in the rebuilding of damaged homes, and furnishing household goods.

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"The service of the Red Cross, an organization through which we can channel our help to neighbors in need, depends upon our support. The annual Fund Campaign held in March gives us all an opportunity to continue this all important organization of service. I urge everyone in the State to give to the Red Cross all that he can during this campaign."